

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8177

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PL

SUBJECT: JAROSZEWICZ CALLS FOR CEMA-EEC COOPERATION

1. OPENING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE POLISH PARLIAMENT (SEJM) WITH AN ADDRESS ON CSCE, PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ RAISED, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN CEMA AND THE EEC. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY FORMULA FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, JAROSZEWICZ SUGGESTED THAT THE PROCESS OF INTENSIFYING EUROPEAN COOPERATION "WOULD BE SERVED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN CEMA AND THE EEC, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE, AND CREATING A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF BOTH ECONOMIC GROUPS".

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2. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY RECENT POLISH STATEMENTS IN FAOVR OF CLOSER CEMA-EEC RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK HAD TOUCHED ON THIS SUBJECT IN HIS SPEECH AT THE HELSINKI CSCE SUMMIT, THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER PUBLIC MENTION OF IT HERE UNTIL IT WAS INCLUDED IN THE POLISH-NETHERLANDS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 17 FOLLOWING NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER SOTEL'S VISIT. UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIALS SEEMED TO DOUBT THE VALUE OF FORMAL DEALINGS WITH EEC CENTRAL ORGANS. THEY APPEARED SKEPTICAL THAT THE EXPANDED AUTHORITY OF THE EEC COMMISSION, AND THE REDUCED ROLE OF MEMBER COUNTRIES IN FOREIGN-TRADE POLICY, HELD ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THEM. THE POLES APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT TRADE-POLICY ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED IN SOME WAY WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE EEC COMMISSION.

3. THIS VIEW MAY HAVE CHANGED FOLLOWING THE ROUND OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EEC MEMBER COUNTRIES, BUT WE DOUBT POLAND'S COMMITMENT TO ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A SACRIFICE OF THE SUBSTANCE, AS OPPOSED TO THE APPEARANCE, OF AUTHORITY OVER FOREIGN TRADE POLICY TO CEMA. THE GIEREK GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN CERTAIN RISKS IN PURSUIT OF A TRADE PROGRAM WHICH HAS RAPIDLY SHIFTED THE DIRECTION OF TRADE TO THE WEST, AND IT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ALTERING ITS POLICY. THE POLES ARE UNLIKELY TO YIELD CONTROL OVER TRADE POLICY TO AN ORGANIZATION WHICH CAN HARDLY BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RECENT TRENDS IN POLISH TRADING PATTERNS.

DAVIES

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